

through 2009, to enable those agencies to expand the summer food pilot projects established under section 18(f) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(f)) to all States of the United States and to all service institutions (including service institutions described in section 13(a)(7) of that Act).

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, before we close tonight, I wanted to make a couple of comments. One has to do with a wonderful ceremony that we had today in the Rotunda where the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring Dr. Dorothy Height was conducted.

These ceremonies are a wonderful time in the sense that it allows each of us to go back as individuals and really celebrate, whether it is points in history, great leaders, icons, or pioneers, and indeed today in recognizing Dr. Dorothy Height we had all of those—a true icon, a pioneer, a leader, a hero, a woman who has had an indelible impact on not only one generation but multiple generations. In addition, today was her 92nd birthday.

It had a special meaning for me in that just about a month ago I had the opportunity to lead a delegation of 10 Senators, including the distinguished Senator who occupies the chair at this juncture, on a civil rights pilgrimage through Alabama, and it continued on up into Tennessee.

Over that period of several days, we had the opportunity to walk in the steps of true giants. I had the opportunity to spend some time today with, indeed, one of those giants of an era of which we are true beneficiaries, and that was Dr. Dorothy Height. She was the only woman among the big six who planned and led the civil rights movement, an extraordinary American, a woman who was truly fearless in a time of fear, a woman who was an optimist when the future was bleak, a woman who brought people together when others were fighting to keep society apart.

As we sat in that wonderful Rotunda today, thinking about the great history and great patriots who are portrayed in the Rotunda, with the large dome above, you could not help but think how appropriate it was for her to join those patriots in the struggle she led, in large part the struggle for equality and that endowment of that right of life and liberty and pursuit of happiness.

It was wonderful to be able to participate in that ceremony. I wanted, as we wait to close here shortly, to once again honor Dr. Dorothy Height for her tremendous leadership over many years.

She said, right before the end of that ceremony, in her closing remarks, until the Good Lord is done with her, she has a lot more to do and people can expect her to continue to do a lot along the way.

#### OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at this juncture I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of calendar No. 403, S. 1218.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1218) to provide for Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs and development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 1278

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[(This Act may be cited as the "Oceans and Human Health Act".]

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

[(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

[(1) The rich biodiversity of marine organisms provides society with an essential biomedical resource, a promising source of novel compounds with therapeutic potential, and a potentially important contribution to the national economy.

[(2) The diversity of ocean life and research on the health of marine organisms, including marine mammals and other sentinel species, helps scientists in their efforts to investigate and understand human physiology and biochemical processes, as well as providing a means for monitoring the health of marine ecosystems.

[(3) The oceans drive climate and weather factors causing severe weather events and shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns that affect the density and distribution of disease-causing organisms and the ability of public health systems to address them.

[(4) The oceans act as a route of exposure for human disease and illnesses through ingestion of contaminated seafood and direct contact with seawater containing toxins and disease-causing organisms.

[(5) During the past two decades, the incidence of harmful blooms of algae has increased around the world, contaminating shellfish, causing widespread fish kills, threatening marine environmental quality and resulting in substantial economic losses to coastal communities.

[(6) Existing Federal programs and resources support research in a number of these areas, but gaps in funding, coordination, and outreach have impeded national progress in addressing ocean health issues.

[(7) National investment in a coordinated program of research and monitoring would improve understanding of marine ecosystems, allow prediction and prevention of

marine public health problems and assist in realizing the potential of the oceans to contribute to the development of effective new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology.

[(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to provide for—

[(1) Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs; and

[(2) development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program that will assist this Nation and the world to understand, use and respond to the role of the oceans in human health.

#### SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL.

[(a) DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY TO CHAIR COUNCIL.—Section 207(a) of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6616(a)) is amended—

[(1) by striking "CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY" in the subsection heading and inserting "CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL"; and

[(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

["(1) serve as Chair of the National Science and Technology Council; and".]

[(b) FUNCTIONS.—Section 401 of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6651) is amended to read as follows:

#### ["SEC. 401. FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL.

["(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Science and Technology Council (hereinafter referred to as the 'Council') shall consider problems and developments in the fields of science, engineering, and technology and related activities affecting more than one Federal agency, and shall recommend policies and other measures designed to—

["(1) provide more effective planning and administration of Federal scientific, engineering, and technology programs;

["(2) identify research needs, including areas requiring additional emphasis;

["(3) achieve more effective use of the scientific, engineering, and technological resources and facilities of Federal agencies, including elimination of unwarranted duplication; and

["(4) further international cooperation in science, engineering and technology.

["(b) COORDINATION.—The Council may be assigned responsibility for developing long-range and coordinated plans for scientific and technical research which involve the participation of more than 2 agencies. Such plans shall—

["(1) identify research approaches and priorities which most effectively advance scientific understanding and provide a basis for policy decisions;

["(2) provide for effective cooperation and coordination of research among Federal agencies; and

["(3) encourage domestic and, as appropriate, international cooperation among government, industry and university scientists.

["(c) OTHER DUTIES.—The Council shall perform such other related advisory duties as shall be assigned by the President or by the Chair of the Council.

["(d) ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES.—For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, each Federal agency represented on the Council shall furnish necessary assistance to the Council. Such assistance may include—

["(1) detailing employees to the Council to perform such functions, consistent with the purposes of this section, as the Chairman of the Council may assign to them; and

["(2) undertaking upon the request of the Chair, such special studies for the Council as